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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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United Nations Population Fund

Extensions of country programmes in the Asia and the Pacific region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the one-year extension of the UNFPA country programme for Bhutan.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for second one-year extensions or requests for two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extension for Bhutan, as indicated in table 1.

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Table 1
One-year country programme extension approved by the Executive Director

Country	*Original programme period*	*Year proposed for extension*	*Explanation*		
			United Nations harmonization	*In-country political development*	*Implementation and/or other issues*
Bhutan	2008-2012	2013	Since 2008, the Government of Bhutan and the United Nations Executive Committee agencies have adopted the "delivering as one" approach, in order to better align United Nations development assistance to national development plans. In order to align the cycle of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the common country programme action plan with the current five-year plan of the Government and to better prepare for the future United Nations support, the Government requested a one-year extension of the UNDAF, to which the United Nations agreed. Since UNFPA is one of the organizations participating in the "delivering as one" programme in Bhutan, the UNFPA country programme has also been extended for one year, through the end of 2013.	The Government is leading the development of a joint cooperation strategy in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action. The strategy will provide a common platform of development cooperation between the Government and its development partners. The joint cooperation strategy, which the United Nations and the development partners support, seeks to better align development assistance to the current national five-year development plan (2009-2013) and the subsequent eleventh five-year plan (2014-2018).	The current country programme provides an adequate framework for all UNFPA-supported projects being implemented in Bhutan.